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By SW NARA Date 7/9/07

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PEKING 034

August 28, 1973

TO: KENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: DAVID BRUCE

SUBJECT: Call on USLO by North Korean Charge in Peking

1. North Korean Charge Li Jaepil, accompanied by First Secretary Sin Jido, called on USLO per his request at 5:30 P.M., 27 August. They were received by Jenkins and Holdridge. Li drove into US compound in large Hungchcm'i Limousine, but I do not believe he was observed except by members of our immediate staff and the Chinese P.L.A. guards at the gate.

2. Li did not waste time on pleasantries and promptly got down to business. Referring to fact that members of DPRK Permanent Observer Mission to UN had already obtained U.S. visas from U.S. Embassy in Moscow, he handed over list of this mission (they will be forwarded by SEPTTEL).

3. Li then stated he wanted to discuss some problems directly concerned with entry into U.S. of members of DPRK staff Permanent Observer Mission. He understood that U.N. Secretary General Waldheim had reached agreement with U.S. government on question of treatment of DPRK Mission after which Waldheim had informed North Koreans (by letter on June 29) that their personnel would receive every convenience. However, Li wanted a direct reply from U.S. government confirming that DPRK Permanent Observer to the UN and all other members of his mission would be provided with:

- a. Diplomatic privileges and perogatives in accordance with international law and practices;
- b. Guarantee of safety of Permanent Observer and mission members;
- c. Inviolability of DPRKs missions office building, houses, property, conveyances, etc.
- d. Insurance of inviolability of cryptographic communication and diplomatic courier services;

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e. Guarantee of exemption from trial, exemption from inspection of luggage at point of entry;

f. Right to fly national flag.

Li laid particular stress on U.S. government providing official guarantee to DPRK government on personal safety of its Permanent Observer to the UN and other members of his mission, and anticipated that this would be forthcoming "considering that your government respects international law and practices."

4. Jenkins told Li that we would be glad to transmit this request and would ask for a detailed reply as soon as possible. He expressed confidence that normal diplomatic privileges and protection would be extended to the North Koreans in New York and they would be afforded those things necessary for the successful and safe operation of their mission. Holdridge added that U.S. took its position as host government for the UN very seriously. In response to remark from Li that North Korean Embassy in Peking would be waiting for U.S. reply, Jenkins stated that we would be in touch with them as soon as answer received.

5. Li then raised question of meaning of G-3 visa which had been issued to Koreans in Moscow. After checking Jenkins provided him with explanation on this point.

6. Jenkins suggested to Li that it would be in interest of both parties not to arouse speculation as to why this meeting had taken place, and accordingly proposed that it be kept secret. Li said that he fully understood and also hoped that meeting and subject discussed would not be publicized. He pointed out that meeting was significant in that it was perhaps the first time such a contact between diplomats of DPRK and U.S. had occurred. Li at this point declined offer of refreshment from Jenkins and departed pleading pressure of business, but hoped that more time would be available later on.

7. We here now are obliged to follow up with information and assurances requested by North Koreans. I trust that this will not present any particular difficulties for you, and that we will be in a position to reply to them soon. You will note that they spoke of "guarantee" regarding security and other matters affecting their UN mission. I assume that we will not go beyond the confines of arrangements normally offered other

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UN missions, including those of countries we do not recognize.

8. I have the impression that despite the relatively non-substantive nature of this initial contact, the North Koreans had somewhat something larger in mind: namely, to test the atmospherics in USLO and on the part of the U.S. government toward further contacts of a possibly more substantive nature. This might be deduced from the fact that North Koreans could have approached the U.S. government in a number of different locations, e.g., Moscow, regarding the questions which they raised (or indeed could have gone through third parties such as the Chinese). The appearance of the North Korean charge in person rather than a lesser member of his staff lends further height to my supposition. Pyongyang could look upon Peking as a convenient - and safe - place to deal directly with the U.S. when or if such a course is determined. Peking is probably aware of these considerations and may well have encouraged the North Koreans in approaching us directly here. In my opinion, the Chinese in all likelihood knew in advance of the August 27 meeting.

9. Warm Regards.

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